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44. PINE FORESTS IN NEPAL

In the present paper, I have described the area and places where Pine forests are located in Nepal. It is based on Journeys undertaken by me and the information available from literature.

In Nepal two species of *Pinus* are found: *Pinus wallichiana* A. B. Jacks—Indigenous, with east-west distribution. Grows between altitude 2000 to 4000 m. In west Nepal, it is present in the extreme west between 2200 m to 3300 m altitude; in the valleys of Humula near Simikot at 2500 m; and on the side of Rara lake in Jumla at 3300 m. Grows in Bheri Zone. The highest altitude at which this species grows in Nepal is about 4800 m close to Kanjirobal Himal near Jumla. It is also present towards the north west of Pokhra. Grows as a dense

forest on way to Kathmandu at Shivbhanjyang and Daman between altitude 2300 to 2650 m. In Kathmandu it is present at the lowest limit of 1500 m, it has been observed that *Pinus wallichiana* growing at Kathmandu bears a less developed membranous sheath on dwarf shoots or foliar spurs in comparison to those growing at higher altitudes where the plants develop scales on the spurs. Specimens collected are preserved in the Herbarium, M.S. College, Saharanpur. In the east it is present near Langtang valley and at Rolwaling near longitude 86°E and in the eastern most part of Nepal particularly in areas like Namche, Lamche bazar, Topke and Walangchung between longitudes 86.8°E to 88°E.

*Pinus roxburghii* Sargent — Indigenous,

grows between 1000 to 25000 m. In west Nepal it is present towards north of Nepal-ganj and Dhangarhi between longitudes 80.8°E to 82°E. It is sparsely present in Dang district. It is rare between 83°E to 84.5°E. Some plants are present in Narayangarh area of Central Nepal. Forest of this species is also abundant in Kathmandu at 1500 m altitude. In east Nepal it is rare.

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